SAMPLE SLAB UPDATE

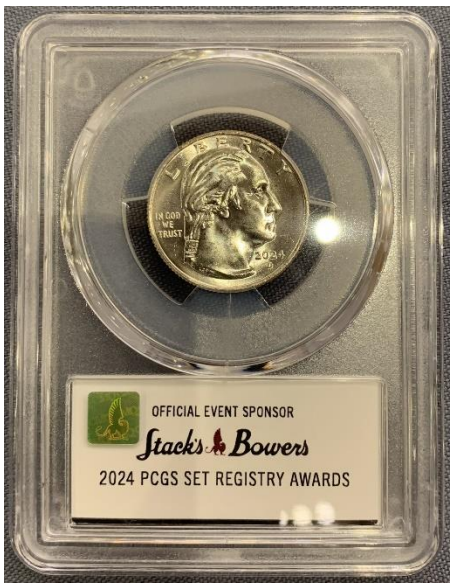
37 – AUGUST 2024

THE NEWSLETTER FOR SAMPLE SLAB COLLECTORS.

Samples and Slabs at the 2024 ANA World's Fair of Money

As knowledge diffuses throughout the numismatic fraternity, it has become more difficult to find vintage and collectible slabs unattributed. Slab friends, we have gone mainstream. I saw numerous NGC white labels, Blanchards, and PCGS doilies, all priced at a premium. Even the NGC type 8 ("The Ocho") I have been championing, that was obscure so recently, now commands a small premium. One dealer, when asked about better holders, noted that material of that sort was well picked at the start of the show and I should expect to find little towards the end. You will still find scores, but the days when we could buy every sample we saw are over. A question to ponder: what item, whether numismatic or anything else, is now unappreciated and will be valuable in 10 years?

Of course, the ANA convention remains the best place in the world to find new samples. NGC expanded their popular grading contest into the new NGC Numismatic Triathlon. About 200 contestants answered questions on numismatic terms, then attributed coins, then graded coins. Holders went to all contestants, with special holders to the top five scorers in YN, YAN (Young Adult Numismatist), and adult categories.



PCGS held a breakfast Friday morning for the Set Registry Awards and Coin Dealer Hall of Fame Induction. About 50 people attended this event, where Christine Karstedt and Ron Gillio joined the Hall of Fame. All attendees received a holder pedigreed to the event with a 2024 Mary Walker

quarter. 200 examples were made of this piece, which is part of the PCGS luncheon series. Note the reverse includes a Stacks Bowers CMQ (Certified Market Qualified) sticker. Five people chosen by drawing received the even more generous gift of a PCGS swag bag that included PCGS merch and a similar holder with a Silver Eagle. PCGS art director Keith Dewald put together the labels, signage, tickets, and other event art on short notice. The event, and the entire Set Registry program, is entirely free.

I had a lucky meeting with Bob Paul of Bob Paul Rare Coins. Although he was packing up and could not talk for long, he described how he founded Global, International, and Coin Vault services. These three certifiers used the same photoslab and concentrated on program coins. His current project is Sight White, a stickering service that designates brilliant coins, and he plans to bring back the Global brand. I would like to do a detailed interview another time.

Another fortunate meeting told the story behind one of the few gold coin samples, NGC-Mp2-9-2 on page 389 of the second edition book with "Compliments of Liberty Coin Service" and a gold 1945 Mexico two peso. Tom (I did not ask his last name) of Liberty Coin Service in Lansing, Michigan and two of his staff were at the slab collector meeting described below. Around 2000, he gave the holders to new subscribers to his newsletter. About 500 were made. Based on how infrequently these appear for sale (none on eBay in the 11 years I have been tracking), either many were cracked out or remain at Liberty Coin Service.

Slab Collector Meeting #8 at the Chicago ANA

The ANA's World Fair of Money in Rosemont, Illinois featured the largest slab collector meetup yet, held Friday August 9 in the lobby of the Hyatt Regency O'Hare by the convention center. I counted 24 enthusiasts who gathered to talk over our mutual interest, including show & tell and trading. We overflowed the lobby bar at the Hyatt and the hotel generously gave us a conference room to continue. Eighth in a series that started in 2016. Distinguished guests included Coin World writer and podcaster Jeff Starck.

Was there a gift for the occasion? You bet your slab there was! Thanks to NGC, attendees received a holder pedigreed to the event. This time with a silver coin – a Great Britain 1937-1946 George VI sixpence.

Just as appealing, numismatic researcher Carl Waltz gave examples of the first sample holding an elongated coin to collectors at the meeting. Carl had these made to commemorate his new book on turn of the century coin dealer Charles Steigerwalt.

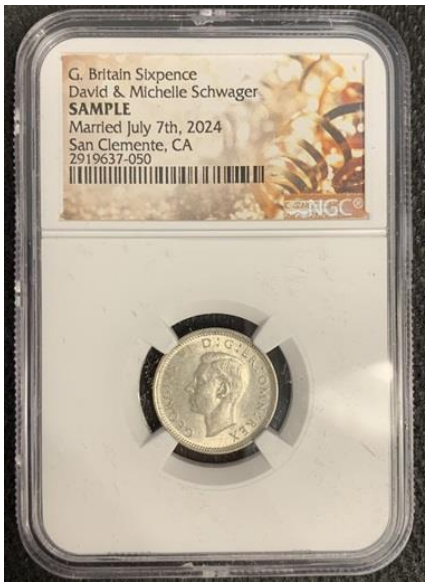
These meetups will continue at each ANA World's Fair of Money. If you are planning a slab collector meetup at another major show, I can help publicize.

Witter Brick

Witter Coin's new Witter Brick is a "blind bag" or "box breaks" program offering sealed boxes containing unknown CACG certified coins. Debuting August 30 and similar to the popular VaultBox, I expect the program to be successful. Lists of coins in the boxes will be published soon. Instead of VaultBox's buyback program, Witter plans a set registry to encourage buyers to keep and track their finds.

An unknown number of sample slabs, each holding a Silver Eagle, were released to promote Witter Brick. Keeping with the blind bag theme, each sample was issued in a sealed pouch. Most have the standard green label and some have the silver or gold labels the more valuable Brick coins will use. As far as I know, every opened pouch has held a green label. Witter generously gave me one (I kept it sealed), several as drawing prizes to customers who took a survey, and kindly to each ANA page at the World's Fair of Money.

Wedding holders



Some of you know I got married in July. I am immensely grateful to NGC for making commemorative holders for the occasion. I will remember and treasure these for life. Each holds an AU to BU Great Britain George VI silver sixpence of 1937 – 46, chosen for the wedding rhyme that ends "and a sixpence in your shoe." Yes, I had an identical sixpence in my shoe during the ceremony.

We are, to my knowledge, only the seventh couple to have a holder made for our wedding. NGC-Medal-4-3, for the 2001 wedding of prominent numismatist David Lange, is in the second edition book on page 386. Cataloging the rest could be an article for a future issue.

Buying and Selling

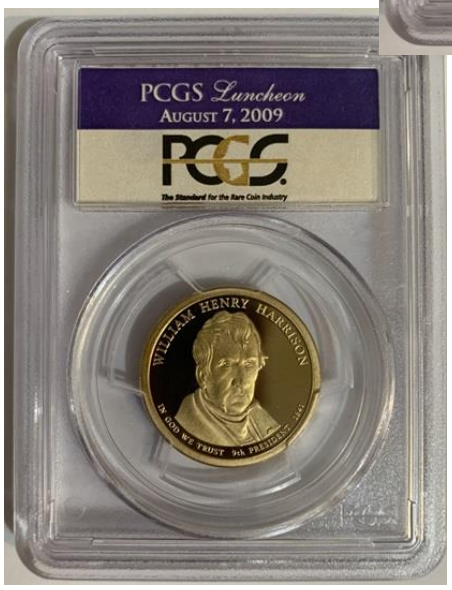
Buying

I buy sample collections or better single slabs for inventory. For my own collection, I look for samples from obscure or unlisted grading services (such as AHCGS, CCCS, or Global), gold coin samples, and rarities from all services. Specifically, I am looking for the PCGS blue label with a Canada 25 cents and grade MS00, as well as the PMG with an oversized Austria 1000 kroner. I also buy NGC Ocho (type 8.0) holders with W or T grades. Contact me at davidschwager@hotmail.com or Instagram @schwagerdavid

Selling

All ship free. Email davidschwager@hotmail.com to buy. All common payment methods accepted: Personal check (my favorite), eCheck, Zelle, PayPal, Cashapp, Venmo, or almost anything else.

1. PCGS employee-only holder. PCGS gave this slab to employees to commemorate the 20th anniversary of the company in 2006. Some spots on coin. Plastic is pristine. These rarely appear for sale, as most employees held on to theirs. $300.



2. PCGS luncheon slab August 7, 2009, with proof William Henry Harrison presidential dollar. Three of the four dollars from this scarce early luncheon are available here – see below for the other two. The Harrison type has never sold on eBay and is yours for $135.

3. PCGS luncheon slab August 7, 2009, with proof Zachary Taylor presidential dollar. $110.

4. PCGS luncheon slab August 7, 2009, with proof Polk presidential dollar. $110.

5. PCGS luncheon slab January 7, 2011, with mint state 1943 steel cent. Another better early luncheon. $95.

6. PCGS 2023 FUN Cocktail Party. PCGS's last full Set Registry Luncheon (so far) was at the August 2021 ANA convention in Chicago. In the last three years, PCGS held several other events for Set Registry members. One was this invitation-only cocktail party at the January 2023 FUN show. Not many people went, and only a few slabs have appeared for sale. Part of the avidly collected luncheon series. $175.

7. Set of five consecutive "THANK YOU FROM PCGS" 35th anniversary medals. Numbers 43519094 – 43519098. All five for $190.

8. Sample slab pioneer Cameron Kiefer's promotional slab. I dedicated my book to ICG grader and coin dealer Cameron Kiefer, who created sampleslabs.com. He did not sell these holders and only gave them away. 150 made. I acquired several from Cameron's estate. $25 each.

9. CACG sample with 2006-D nickel. $29.

10. Dominion Grading Service (DGS) sample slab. Seldom-seen sample issuer. $50.

Is there more? You bet your slab there is! Introducing the You Bet Your Slab stickering service. This highly coveted and eminently respectable sticker certifies beyond all shadow of a doubt that the holder is a desirable, genuine, top-shelf, premium quality slab. Available on request at no charge for any purchase from this publication. YBYS stickers are sure to become the standard of excellence in the slab world.

Also see my eBay store. I will give better prices on eBay listings for readers who contact me directly. Sometimes a little better, sometimes a lot better, depending on how much room I have on the item.

Sample Slab Update #37 – August 2024 (sent 8/16/24). Published about every two months by David Schwager, Fountain Valley, California. davidschwager@hotmail.com. Please email me to be added to or removed from the mailing list. Comments and submissions are welcome. See SampleSlabBook.com or the Newman Numismatic Portal for past issues. The best way to reach me and know what I am doing is Instagram @schwagerdavid. I also respond to Facebook messages.